

young of the *Cuculus inornatus*, having the speckled breast and greyish-coloured back of the immature age of that species. It had been brought up in fine condition by the old birds, which appeared, judging by their actions, very proud, and apparently took the greatest care, of their parasitical charge, doubtless regarding its size with great satisfaction as an improved breed of Little Warblers.

4. ON THE FISH CALLED GLYPHISODON BIOCELLATUS.
BY DR. GEORGE BENNETT, F.Z.S.

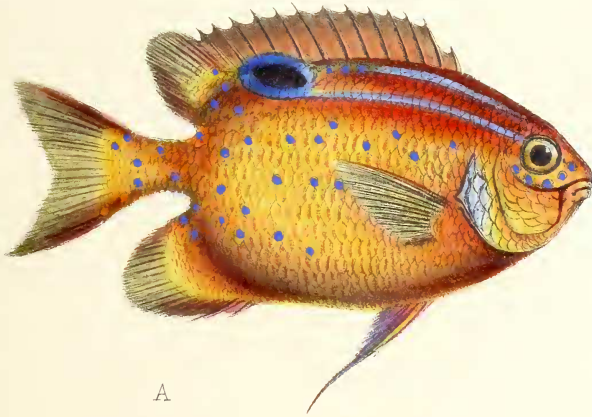
(Pisces, Pl. IX.)

The following notes on the *Glyphisodon biocellatus*, together with an accurate drawing from life, were given to me by Mr. G. F. Angas for the purpose of being brought before the Zoological Society. This interesting and elegant little fish we at first supposed to be a new species; but on my arrival in England I found it was the *G. biocellatus* of Cuvier. As, however, the description of that eminent naturalist has evidently been made from specimens preserved in spirits, his account, as far as regards colour, cannot be entirely depended upon; and, as the drawing gives the accuracy of colour and the brilliant hues of the fish when seen alive and swimming about the aquarium, it will form an interesting addition to our more accurate knowledge of Australian fishes. Although the fish itself is not at present readily captured even at Sydney, yet I hope that before long it may be brought to Europe, to adorn the aquaria of this country.

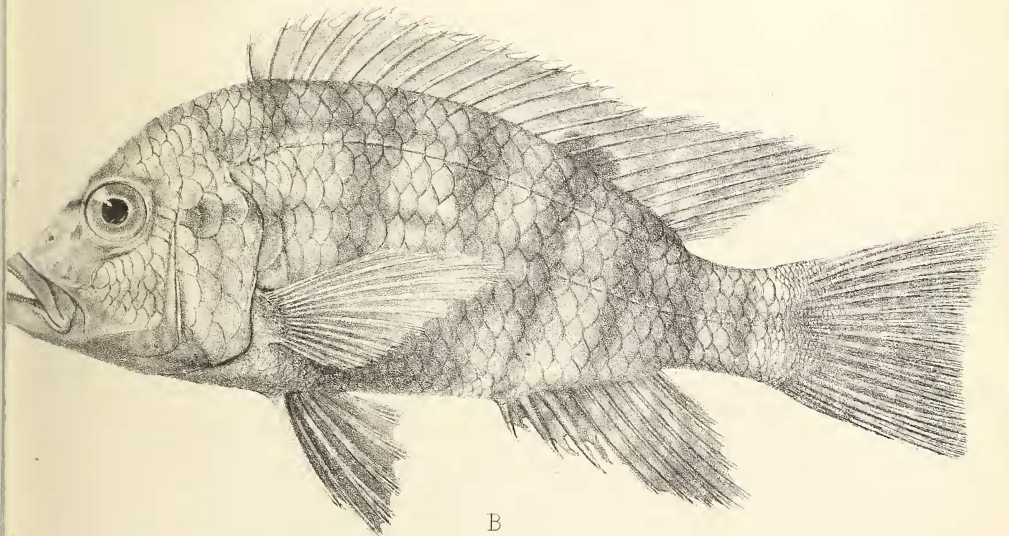
GLYPHISODON BIOCELLATUS, Cuv. (Pl. IX. fig. 1.)

“This brilliant and elegant little fish is found in the pools amongst rocks at low spring tides, both on the outer coast and in several localities inside the harbour of Port Jackson. The first time I met with it was amongst the rocks in a pool at Coodgee Bay, about four miles from Sydney. The extreme brilliancy of the colours, gold and azure, as the little creatures dart in and out amongst the cavities of the rocks, reminds one of jewels flashing in the sunlight. They are remarkably shy, and on the slightest noise or the shadow of a person approaching the pool, they dart in and conceal themselves under the ledges and in the holes of the rocks; hence they are very difficult to catch. They generally make their appearance on the coast about November, and remain till May; during the winter months I have looked for them in vain. The usual size varies from 1 to 2 inches in length. The one figured is of the largest dimensions that has come under my notice; so that it is probable that 4 inches is the largest size they acquire.

“In the aquarium they are most exquisite objects. Last summer I only succeeded with every care in keeping them alive in a well-established tank for a week or ten days. At the present moment



A



B

E Ford

W West imp.

A. *Glyphisodon biocellatus*. B *Halgienes tristrami*, *Ghr*.

I have a specimen in perfect health, which was captured at North Harbour three weeks ago. They eat small worms and crumbs of bread greedily when in confinement.

"I have sent a small specimen in spirits to accompany the drawing.

"GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS."

5. NOTES ON SHARKS, MORE PARTICULARLY ON TWO ENORMOUS SPECIMENS OF *CARCHARIAS LEUCAS*, CAPTURED IN PORT JACKSON, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES. BY DR. GEORGE BENNETT, F.Z.S.

Sharks are formidable for their strength and the numerous rows of teeth with which their powerful jaws are armed; these teeth, inclining backwards, prevent the prey, once swallowed, from readily escaping without severe laceration, even if at all; the teeth are slightly moveable, which mobility, being merely to an erect position, renders the escape of prey still more difficult. The stomachs of these fish are found to contain a very mixed diet, some holding small fishes, or flying squids; others, paper, canvas, even tin pots, and offal of every description cast overboard from ships,—the stomachs being of enormous capacity, and, to judge from the contents and quantity found in them, these fishes having enormous powers of digestion.

As an article of food, a Shark is not considered good eating; but the flesh of a young one is preferable to that of many of the deep-water fishes, and by some considered superior to that of Bonitos or Albicores. The large Sharks are very coarse food: the liver in every species yields a large quantity of oil.

I have observed that if several Sharks are together, it is very seldom that a Pilot-fish (*Naucrates*) is seen to accompany them; but a solitary Shark is rarely or never seen without being accompanied by one or more of the latter. On capturing a Shark which was accompanied by Pilot-fish, by keeping the Shark in the water until it was exhausted, or, as the sailors termed it, "drowned," the Pilot-fish kept constantly about it; and, by aid of the towing net at the end of a long stick, I succeeded in capturing it as it swam on the surface of the water.

We find, as well in the Sharks as in all those kinds of fish which have a prolonged snout, the mouth situated far underneath, and the upper portion of the tail considerably lengthened, so that it may aid them in turning readily round; for this purpose also the eye-ball revolves on a cartilaginous pedicle with a ball and socket joint, so that they are capable of turning that organ in every direction to capture their prey.

An enormous Shark (*Carcharias leucas*, Valenciennes) was lately captured in Port Jackson by two boatmen, T. Mulhall and J. Rica, who finding him ranging about the harbour, procured a harpoon and went in chase of him. They succeeded in harpooning the monster, who when struck ran away with a great length of line. Being tired,